



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Great Government Through the General Management System – Quality, Timeliness, Value
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

CLASS SPECIFICATION

UNCLASSIFIED

COUNTY VETERINARIAN

Class No. 02120

■ CLASSIFICATION PURPOSE

To direct the activities of the Office of the County Veterinarian; and to perform related work.

■ DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

County Veterinarian is a one-position executive management class allocated to the Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures. This class is responsible for providing veterinary pathology services, which involves the examination of domestic, exotic, and wildlife animals for diseases and pathogens affecting animals including rabies, plague, tuberculosis, and others transmittable to man. This class differs from the Chief Veterinarian in that the latter evaluates and ensures the quality of routine and emergency medical and surgical services provided at all the Department of Animal Services animal shelters.

■ FUNCTIONS

The examples of functions listed in the class specification(s) are representative but not necessarily exhaustive or descriptive of any one position in the class(es). Management is not precluded from assigning other related functions not listed herein if such duties are a logical assignment for the position.

Essential Functions:

1. Plans, directs, and organizes the activities of the Office of the County Veterinarian.
2. Imposes quarantines.
3. Makes public announcements regarding threatened outbreaks of contagious animal diseases.
4. Conducts diagnostic field investigations in difficult cases.
5. Renders consulting services to veterinary practitioners and livestock producers.
6. Administers contracts for animals for medical research.
7. Prepares budgets for the County Veterinarian's Office.
8. Cooperates with California Bureau of Animal Health in disease control programs.
9. Prepares reports and statistics.
10. Represents the County at meetings related to County Veterinary functions.
11. Selects, trains, assigns, supervises, and evaluates professional staff.
12. Operates a veterinary diagnostic laboratory capable of diagnosing diseases in a wide range of animals.
13. Provides high quality service to County employees, representatives of outside agencies and members of the public.

■ KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of:

- Livestock husbandry practices.
- Principles and practices of veterinary medicine.
- Principles and practices of pathology, infectious diseases, zoonotic diseases.
- Public administration and budgeting.
- Training or supervision techniques.
- County customer service objectives and strategies.
- The General Management System in principle and in practice.

Skills and Abilities to:

- Practice veterinary medicine.
- Manage a county veterinary program.
- Maintain effective audio-visual discrimination and perception needed for making observations, communicating with others and reading and writing.
- Maintain mental capacity, which allows the capability of making sound decisions and demonstrating intellectual capacities.
- Effectively communicate orally and in writing.

■ EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE

Education, training, and/or experience that demonstrate possession of the knowledge, skills, and abilities listed above. Examples of qualifying education/experience are:

1. Doctorate of veterinary medicine degree from a college recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association, which must have included successful completion of a residency in veterinary anatomic pathology; AND
2. Five (5) years of responsible administrative or supervisory experience over a unit or division in regulatory livestock disease control, pathology and/or laboratory diagnoses.

Note: Experience in a large animal and poultry practice, epidemiology, or public health is desirable.

■ SPECIAL NOTES, LICENSES, OR REQUIREMENTS

License

A valid license to practice veterinary medicine in the State of California at time of appointment.

A valid California class C driver's license, which must be maintained throughout employment in this class, is required at time of appointment, or the ability to arrange necessary and timely transportation for field travel. Employees in this class may be required to use their own vehicle.

Certification/Registration

None required.

Working Conditions

Work is performed in varying temperatures; exposure to excessive noise; animal waste and decomposing animals; pathogens and zoonotic diseases. Subject to emergency calls on weekends and/or holidays.

Background Investigation

Must have a reputation for honesty and trustworthiness. Misdemeanor and/or felony convictions may be disqualifying depending on type, number, severity, and recency. Prior to appointment, candidates will be subject to a background investigation.

Persons serving in positions in the Unclassified Service do not accrue tenure and serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority (Charter of the County of San Diego Section 909.2).

New: January 30, 1968
Revised: June 30, 1979
Reviewed: Spring 2004

County Veterinarian (Class No. 002120)

Union Code: EM

Variable Entry: Y